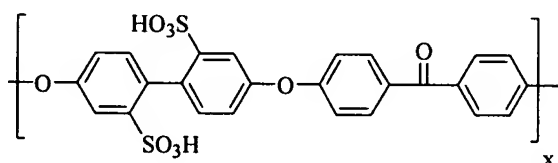
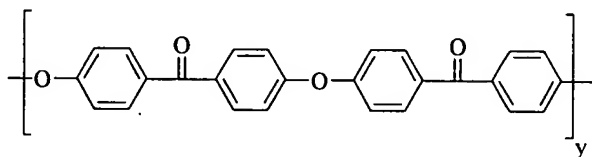


ABSTRACT

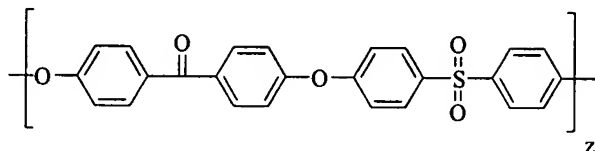
A membrane electrode assembly has two gas diffusion layers, two catalyst layers and an ion-exchange membrane interposed therebetween wherein the ion-exchange membrane is cast from a sulphonated polyether ketone/sulfone ionomer. Specifically, the ionomer can be represented as A-B-C wherein A is



B is



and C is



Further x, y, z represent the mole ratios of each moiety in the ionomer such that x is between 0.25 and 0.40; y is between 0.01 and 0.26; and z is between 0.40 and 0.67. Melt viscosity of the corresponding base polymer also affects performance in the fuel cell, particularly at values over 0.4 kNsm^{-2} as measured at 400°C , 1000 s^{-1} . In preparing the membrane electrode assembly, the catalyst layers may be coated directly on the membrane and then bonded with two gas diffusion layers.